

Bland Letters (one dated June 15, 1907)

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE



Bland

Columbia, Mo.

June 13 = 1907

Mr. Robert L. Bland

Winston, West Virginia

Dear Sir:-

I am
delighted ^{to receive} from you a
very charming book of verse
by Frances Moore Bland.
Let me first Thank you for
remembering me so kindly
and then let me ask
about the authoress. Her
picture does not at all re-

resemble The Blands that I
have known, who have large
round heads and are
rather heavy set. I have
often wondered if these
are characteristic features
of my grandfather's family
only. or if the Blands in
general are ^{thus} inclined. ~~to~~ I
~~he~~ have a little daughter
who is much like my
mother's family - She has a
well shaped round head,
large brown eyes, a rather
small nose and a firm
but sweet mouth.

The Blands ^{of whom I know} were people
of strong character - very
tenacious of purpose -
very true to their convictions

and they never lacked convictions to be true to. They were inclined to take life rather seriously and I am convinced would have made good martyrs. Moreover they were people with strong family affection + I think had my grandfather lived long enough to impress the memories the memories of his childhood more strongly we would have known a great deal about his people.

I suppose Mrs. Abigail must have written you about me + my Bland enthusiasm. I have found her letters very interesting and helpful. I am going to make for my own use a Bland chart.

I find that is the best way to get families
and branches straight. Otherwise there
is bound to be some confusion.

I hope I shall hear from you about
the authors of the little books. My
mother has written a number of
poems, which we think quite good
but which have never been collected.
She has written two religious books. The
first a story called Maplehurst. The
other called Our Coming King - a book
on the coming of Christ. I should be glad
to send you a copy of the latter, should
you care for it. The other is long since
out of print. If it were possible to get



a copy now, I think it would interest you more than the "Coming King", which is rather uninteresting, unless you happen to be particularly strong on the Millennium & kindred subjects. And yet should you happen to be a member of the Christian Church, I am afraid Maplehurst would not please you either. As I said before the Blands I know are people of strong convictions & are inclined to take

Themselves + Their convictions
too seriously.

Thanking you again
for the beautiful book.

I am

Sincerely yours

Clara L. Babb

(Mrs. J. G. Babb)

Tuesday P.M.

My dear Robert:-

You certainly must come here and go to Meru Co. with me. I cannot go without you - You see I might get things all mixed up without your being there to show me just what to do and how to do it. I shall look for you and depend upon you to go with me. Do not disappoint me again - we might learn very much together. I am perfectly charmed at the

Bland

prospect of your coming -
but that you do not fail
me over.

Now, I certainly wrote you just
before going up to Cincinnati,
about the probability of the
Pendleton Co. Bland's descent
from Thomas, the father of
Elijah W. Bland. I do not
think it could be possible,
so I proved to myself by cau-
ful investigation as far as
data go.

Your letter on "general
principles" was most suggestive
but your letter - and note! -
are always that, my dear.

- 2 -

accomplished one? She certainly
by belief that you have a well
of information. She has been
sending Mrs. Smith some of
your data, I think. - You say
that you are satisfied that
she is descended from James
& Margaret, yet the proof is
lacking and cannot be
ascertained if the records
are destroyed. - Instead
of your doing anything not for
her to do summer you shall
have the glory of it yourself.
I shall have to take a course
in law from you, dear.
Indeed I shall wait for

for you to accompany me to when
Col. D. we once start on the new
path of Bland investigation
we are lost to all else.
You must know indeed that
those Southern Ky. Bland
Mr. Pottinger speaks of. I am
going down to Col. Darrell's
where he has an well called
library in Kentucky history.
He is the president of the
Filson Club of which I am
a member.

As you well read in Mr. Pottinger's
last letter to me, he offers
to investigate any thing with the
Congressional Library for me.

that I am aware of. On that I
 know who was the father of
 Pezgrum ~~and~~ ¹⁶³⁹ and of James.
 In Baldwin's 'Celepha' & Wells
 James Bland witnesses, in 1675,
 the will of John Campbell of "Poplar
 Hill," recorded in St. Mary's Co.

I believe that we can learn
 more from the Kentucky Books
 that from any other source
 now. Let me see, we have -
 Richard Peck Bland - Hartford, Conn.
 Milton Bland - Logan Co. W. Va.
 Samuel H. Bland - Franklin, Simpson Co.
 William Bland - Nolichucky, Hardin Co.
 Strother Bland - Elizabethton, Hardin Co.
 Elijah Bland - Lawrence Co.

Mayor Bland - Shelby Co.
Buckston, Nelson Co.
Washington Co.
Cox's Creek - Nelson Co.
Bloomfield - " "
Lebanon - Marion Co.
Taylor Co.
Laurester - Farwell C.

May & Henry Bland, the ancestor
of A. B. Warner, is related to
Henry Bland, son of Thomas,
who died in Pe. Wm. Co. was wit-
nessed by Samuel Byrnes.

Did you ever hear from
Morgan Rains?

It is possible that Throckmole
the surveyor of Stafford is the

very probable that he went to
Stafford? His niece, Mary Bland,
married Henry Lee, of Stafford
and Elizabeth ~~Bland~~ ^{Long} Bland sister of
his father, married a Pearson
which family with the house
settled in Stafford. I believe
we shall learn a great deal
from the counties of which
Stafford was a part.

Mr. Henry F. Watson speaks of
the pedigree of the Bland family
in the "Visitacion of London 1633-4"
(Harleian Soc. Vol. I - p. 79.) "So it"
he says "evidently belongs to the
Va. family of that name and
perhaps the Mary land. The
printed register of the Bland

BLAND

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of St. Antholin's, Loc. (also published
by Harleian Soc.) give baptisms
etc. of the family of John Bland,
father of the Virginians.

John Bland, father of Edm.,
in his will proved 1688 - only
mentions Sarah, his wife and
James, ^{wife of Edm.} their daughter in law when
son John yet in infancy.

Edward Bland, brother of
Thordensh, died before 1652
Mazh Gussy had a son
Thordensh.

From notes "Gleaning" the
following will of John Bland
of London, proved 1632 -
wife Susan (son Thomas,

you read Mr. John Randolph's Blank
Letter to Mrs. Smith, in which he
said that his sister, living in
Norfolk Va. had his history of
the Bland family. She may be
the mother of John Bland Rogers.
Whom you mention. Then there is
my sister Alice Bland of Norfolk
to whom I have written twice with-
out success. You may remember
that her cousin, Mrs. Shapleigh,
of St. Louis, gave me her name.
I shall be anxious to hear the result
of your letter to Mr. Rogers.
"Cousin Charles" of Portsmouth is a
bit slow, I regret. I wrote to him
again last fall and also I
have heard nothing.

Poor Mrs. Kenley's letter is quite
pathetic, I think. I have never
answered hers. Do you still
want me to make her think
I am "an accomplished gener-
alist"? Why not let her burn the
letters & say that you are the

Which might save you the trouble
of doing so this summer.
When do you expect to leave home?
May be I could meet you & go home
with you. But if you leave in
September that makes it late for
me. I should love to visit Sturges
too.

Of course your letter was entrusted
to the Cape Juncos! Do you smile
as much as of old.

Yes, I read the deed in P. W. C.,
you speak of, made by Thomas &
Henry Black. This Henry and the two
daughters who married Stone & Harding
fought me very much. Neither have
I gotten them straight in my mind.
I have often wondered how the name
Sheddish originated. His father
may have been a lover of history &
named him after that celebrated
character of Sheddish, the Great of
Italy - As for the name of Peregrine -
where came it? Ansell is the
only one who has ever used it

anxiety of Dr. Thomas A. Bland.
It is very necessary for us to know what
the Northern Ireland & Protestant
L. Blands contain.

I should like to know the ancestry
of George A. Bland of Cuckworth. I
have written him without success.
Suppose you try. Then for them on
Mr. Bennett & Moncure Bland of
West Point related to him. So are
Mrs. Joseph Bland and Mrs.
Richmond Bland. Who
are they?

My theory about Shordich, Overton
of Stafford, is that he is not the nephew
but son of Shordich of Wrotham.
When the latter died, his son Shordich
inherited Wrotham but shared it with
his brother Richard. His brother John
having settled in England, they sold it
to Byrd in 1688. Richard lived on his
estate "Jordan" after this buying them
1720. What became of Shordich after
the sale of Wrotham in 1688? He did
not die until 1700. Evidently he did
not live at Jordan - Is it not

and John, under age) Daughters Susan,
Anne, & Elizabeth. Son in law Emanuel
Probie, dau. Mary Probie, Son Edward.

Thomas, John & Susan shall allow to
their granddaughters, Maria de Probie & to

to give unto all my good children 20
shilling apiece, except Lawrence Lowne's
daughter and Gregory Blunt's son or
daughter - for Lowne played the
knave ^{with me} and Gregory likewise deceived
me, so that neither they nor theirs shall
have one penny of mine.

Judith Lowne ^{the} the wife of Lawrence
Lowne - &c &c -

Cousin Samuel Williams, Mary
Elizabeth Holman and children - Lady
Herbert my niece. &c, as early as given it.

It is very likely that this Lowne is the
Lawne of Va. Very bright.

Do not fail to come to Louis-
ville so we can search the Records.

Yours truly
Anna.

Kohomo Ind.

June 7, 1928

Robert L. Bland.

Attorney & Counsellor @ Law
Weston West-Virginia

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of recent date affords me great pleasure for it encourages me to believe that I may get into direct communication with my own line of Blands, if the Edward Bland of Keabsco Va. is still living. The names he mentions as the children of his grandfather are the names of my grandfather William Bland and his brothers and sisters.

I was so thrilled to get this bit of information.

Theodoric P. Cambell of Va. Polytechnic Institute sent me the genealogy of his branch of the Bland family and I am inclined to believe that my line is the same.

Theodoric (1629-1671) Richard (1665-1720)
Col. Theodoric () Richard (1730-1776)
Children: Richard, Elizabeth, Ann, Peter,
John (1761-1827), Mary, William, Theodoric,
Edward, Sarah, Susan, Lucy.

The dates of this John correspond with those of my ancestor more accurately than the John you

mentioned as the husband of
Margaret Osborne Bland.

It is a tradition in our family
that our John Bland was married
to one Mary Buchanan, for we
have been told that the Buchanans were
related but do not know just how.

I would love to know the exact
connections.

Who were the parents of James
Bland whose will was probated
in Stafford Co. Va. in 1708.

I am enclosing the Genealogical
Record of William Bland in addition
to answering the questions on the
sheet you enclosed for "History."

Assuring you that any inform-
ation that you impart will be
greatly appreciated and thank-
ing you for the letter received.

I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

Bertha McKinney Klimitt.

Mrs W. C. Klimitt.
149 South Phillips
Kokomo, Ind.

Excerpt

from a
letter from Mrs. Anna
Donagan of Louisville
to Robert L. Bland, Sr., of
Weston, W. Va.

To this the same W. Bland, 1758, that you
mentioned in your letter? Mr. Theobald Bland
says this William had issue. I have
written a letter to Gen. Taylor, I rec'd just now,
formerly of Robert Bruce George, C. H., regarding
him - He may be able to tell me something.
I sent it the date 1958 up to that you speak of.

In your letter you say that you have
been told that your grand father (I take it that
this was Thomas born 1792-93?) was born at
Jumfries, and that Cousin Amanda had
been informed by a former ^{slave} that she had
^{married} ~~married~~ him at Bladford. Prof. Brown
^{states} ~~states~~ that my great grand father John
Buckner B. ^{born 1787} and his brother, Samuel B., were
born in Jumfries Va. Their father, Thomas,
and Mother, Rachel Byrnes Bland, left their
home in Prince William Co. (then P.O. in Jumfries)
with their two little boys and started westward.
When they reached Winchester Va, the father
was taken ill, suddenly, and died the same
night. The mother and little boys continued
the journey and arrived at her sister's house
Nov. 1792. Her sister was Mary Byrnes Fairfax,
wife of John Fairfax, who lived then Keebo-
rle Post Va. now dead. The same
winter another boy was born who was named

See note following
marked *

This much, I find,
in error. Sarah went
back to her
parents home.
Her father died the
first year; she
then came to the
Fairfaxes. 4. 1793.

x1. "Cousin Amanda" was Amanda (Bland) Brannon of Weston, W. Va.,
wife of Judge John Brannon and sister of Robert L. Bland's
father, Dr. Newton B. Bland.

* 2. "Prof. Brown" was Prof. Samuel Boardman Brown, at the
time, head of the Geology Dep't. of W. Va. University, a kinsman.

* 3. "John Fairfax" was the Col. John Fairfax who was invited
by Washington to come from his home in Md. and assist George's
nephew, and Washington, in the management of Mt. Vernon.
The invitation was accepted. See Cartmell's Shenandoah Pioneers [Fairfax Family]

return for eight years. My father has spoken
to me of Chancellor Matthias Bland of
Baltimore and Richard Bland, who was a
member of Congress in the early days of the
Republic, a relation of his, - also a relation
named James Bland. "The latter may
have been a descendant of James, the
brother of Matthias Bland of ^{Langport Co} ~~and~~ 1712
~~under~~ Pardon me, of this reputation.

in which the William is called Rev. Wm
1742? I am anxious to learn some
thing of the Portsmouth Blands, who trace
to Vol Thomas Bland, also of this a John
Randolph Bland. I have written to
Mrs. Taylor, a sister of Mr. Theodorick Bland
of Jordan (in accord), asking for their address.
We have heard nothing yet. Did you
learn anything more from Mrs.
Lancaster Garrison?

I have just finished carefully reading
the Bland pedigree and find it most ^{interesting} ~~interesting~~. Do you know anything about
the grand son (Theodorick) of John and
Anne Buck Bland of ~~some~~ ^{some} time at Louisa
living in Virginia in 1820? He belongs to the
line of John, 3rd son of Theodorick of Louisa.
I agree with you that we cannot belong to
this line, as Mr. Bland of Jordan thought.
I infer from his decision that he put my branch
in there, as he stated later that he could
not have been very particular in verifying
his information. You will notice that
there are some mistakes in his letters. This
^{may be} can be attributed to his age. If we could
only see those papers at Jordan, we
might learn what we want to know.

The reading of all your data has
given me ~~very~~ ^{much} end of pleasure and
again let me ~~reiterate~~ ^{reiterate} my appreciation

The above is another fragment from the same
letter written from Louisville, Ky., by Mrs. Anne
Bland (Thomas) Bonigan, (Mrs. Richard) to her
distant cousin, Robert D. Bland, Jr., of Weston, W. Va.

GENEALOGICAL RECORD OF

William Bland

(Full Name)

Son { of John Bland (Father's Name) and Mary Buchanan Bland (Mother's Maiden Name) }
 Daughter {
 was born March 14, 1817 at (Date) (near Wheeling, West Virginia) (Place of Birth)
 and died August 21, 1875 at (Date) (Bourbon, Ind.) (Place) interred at Bethel Cemetery near Bourbon, Ind.

MARRIED

March 24, 1839 at (Date) (near Dayton Ohio) (Place of Marriage) to Nancy Geigler (Full Name of Husband or Wife)
 Who was { Son { of John Geigler (Father-in-Law) and Mary Hutcherson (Maiden Name of Mother-in-Law) }
 Daughter {
 He { was born August 6, 1823 at (Date) (Pennsylvania) (Place of Birth of Husband or Wife)
 She {
 and died July 2, 1903 at (Date) (Bourbon Ind.) (Place) interred at Bethel, Bourbon Ind.

CHILDREN

NAME [Give full middle name]	DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF DEATH AND BURIAL
John Geigler	Feb 28, 1840	Dayton Ohio	August 12, 1918	Bethel, Bourbon
Mary Ellen	Nov. 1, 1841	Dayton Ohio	Dec. 18, 1913	S.D.S. Bourbon
Lucinda Jane	Jan. 22, 1844	Dayton Ohio	March 30, 1879	Agden Ill.
Arthur Samuel	Feb 14, 1846	Dayton Ohio	Nov. 1921	Kalispell Mont
William Thomas	Dec. 30, 1847	Dayton Ohio		
Marion Alexander	Apr. 3, 1850	Piqua, Ohio	March 3, 1928	Bethel, Bourbon
Martha Clara Alice	July 4, 1853	Piqua Ohio	Feb 24, 1861	Piqua O.
Minerva Ann	Feb 10, 1853	Piqua Ohio	July 21, 1890	Bethel, Bourbon
Frank Buchanan	Jan 1, 1858	Piqua Ohio		Butte Montana
Ida Bell	April 10, 1861	Houston Ohio		

Harry Alexander Nov. 1, 1869 Houston.

DATA

My aunt, Mrs Ida B. Alexander, says that her father William Bland was born in Prince Williams Co. Va.

Minnie McKinnon of Bourbon, Ind., was a grand daughter of Bland according to Wm. & Mary Geigler co. must hook up cousin Anna at the above. some how with the above. U. M. P.

FOR HISTORY
OF THE Bland FAMILY.

Kindly fill in the answers to as many questions on this sheet as possible and return to me promptly. Give full name.

Your name Bertha McKinney Nimitt P.O. Address Kokomo Indiana
 Born Feb 21, 1876 at Bourbon County Marshall State Ind.
 Married June 8, 1907 at Greensburg County Cass State Ind.
 Name of husband William C. Nimitt born Sept 21, 77 at Kokomo County Howard State Ind.
 or wife William C. Nimitt
 Died _____ at _____ County _____ State _____
 Name of husband's or wife's father J. F. Nimitt born _____ died 1910
Frances Huntington
 Maiden name of husband or wife's mother _____ born _____ died _____
 Your father Charles B. McKinney born Nov. 7, 1838 died Mar. 30, 1917
 Your mother Mary Ellen Bland born Nov. 1, 1841 died Dec. 18, 1913
 Your grandfather William Bland born Mar 14, 1817 died Aug 21, 1875
 Your grandfather James McKinney born May 11, 1811 died April 13, 1868
 Your grandmother Nancy Bland born Aug 6, 1823 died July 2, 1903
 Your grandmother Elizabeth Carter McKinney born May 19, 1813 died Aug 1841
 Your husband's or wife's grandparents Richard & Hester (Thorne) Nimitt

Your children:

1. <u>Mary Frances Nimitt</u>	When born <u>October 31, 1908</u>	Married <u>Debrauer H.</u>
2. <u>Katherine Alice Nimitt</u>	" <u>Feb 18, 1914</u>	whom <u>Student - at</u>
3. _____	" "	" _____
4. _____	" "	" _____
5. _____	" "	" _____
6. _____	" "	" _____

Give date and place of marriages and deaths.
Also give War records and other facts of interest.

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Bland, Theod.

Col. Theodorick Bland, Jun., a worthy patriot and statesman, and a descendant of Pocahontas, was born in this county about the year 1742. In 1753, when about 11 years of age, he was sent to England to be educated, and in 1761 he repaired to Edinburgh to study medicine. He was among the first persons from Virginia that devoted themselves to the study of medicine--a profession in that day but little cultivated in the colony, and in the improvement of which, from his diligence, he is entitled to the merit of having been one of its earliest pioneers. After an absence of about 12 years from America, he returned to Virginia, and entered upon the practice of his profession. But he was not an indifferent spectator of the political commotions of the day. In December, 1774, in writing to a mercantile friend in England, he says, "I should have vested the small proceeds in goods, but the present political dispute between these colonies and the mother country, which threaten us with a deprivation of our liberties, forbid such a step, and induce us to exert every nerve to imitate the silkworm, and spin from our bowels, although the web should be our winding-sheet." The battle of Lexington was the subject of a patriotic poetical offusion by him. On the 24th of June, 1775, Dr. Bland was one of a party of 24 gentlemen, who, shortly after the flight of Dunmore, removed certain arms from the governor's palace at Williamsburg. In the following December he wrote, apparently for publication, certain phillippics against Dunmore, in which the political corruption and private profligancy of his lord-

ship's character are depicted in the blackest hues. In June, 1776, he was captain of the first troop of Virginia cavalry. He was subsequently appointed lieutenant-colonel of horse, and in September, 1777, joined the main army. From a letter, it would appear that towards the close of this year he was a member of the senate of Va. "While in the army, he frequently signalized himself by brilliant actions." In November, 1778, he superintended the march of the British troops of convention-made prisoners at Saratoga, to Virginia; and on their arrival, or shortly after, was appointed by Washington to the command of the post at Charlottesville. From 1780 to '83, he was a member of Congress. In 1781, Farmingdale, his residence in Va., was plundered by the enemy. While in Congress he manifested his usual spirit and industry in the public cause, particularly in the financial department. In 1785, he was appointed, by Gov. Henry, lieutenant of this county. He was in that minority in the convention of Va., convened to consult upon the adoption of the federal constitution, that believed it repugnant to the interests of the country, and therefore voted against its ratification. On its adoption, however, he acquiesced in the will of the majority, and was elected to represent his district in the first Congress held under the constitution. While serving in that capacity, he died at New York, June 1st, 1790, aged 48. "In person, Col. Bland was tall--in his latter days corpulent--and of a noble countenance. His manners were marked by ease, dignity, and well-bred repose. In character he was virtuous and enlightened, of exemplary purity of manners

and integrity of conduct, estimable for his private worth, and respectable for his public services. His career was distinguished rather by the usefulness of plain, practical qualifications, than by any extraordinary exhibitions of genius. Animated, from his childhood, by a profound love of country, with him patriotism was not an impulse by a principle. In style, he is fluent and correct, and if sometimes too florid or diffuse, he is at others wanting neither in energy of thought nor in elegance of diction. Moderation and good temper prevade his correspondence, and it is nowhere sullied by profanity or indelicacy."

Richard Bland was another of the many prominent Virginians who acted on the theatre of the revolution. Wirt, in speaking of him before the war, says he "was one of the most enlightened men of the colony. He was a man of finished education, and of the most unbending habits of application. His perfect mastery of every fact connected with the settlement and progress of the colony, had given him the name of the Virginia antiquary. He was also a politician of the first class; a profound logician, and was also considered as the first writer in the colony;" but he was a most ungraceful speaker in debate. "He wrote the first pamphlet on the nature of the connection with Great Britain, which had any presension to accuracy of view on that subject; but it was a singular one; he would set out on sound principles, pursue them poggically, til he found them leading to the

precipice which he had to leap; start back, alarmed; then resuming his ground, go over it in another direction, be led again by the correctness of his reasoning to the same place, and again tack about and try other processes to reconcile right and wrong; but left his reader and himself bewildered between the steady index of the compass in their hand, and the phantasm to which it seemed to point. Still there was more sound matter in this pamphlet, than in the celebrated Farmer's letters, which were really but an ignis fatuus, misleading us from true principle." Mr. Bland was a member of Congress from 1774 to 1776; he died in 1778. 1776.

John Randolph of Roanoke, there is good reason to suppose was born at Cawson's in this county, the family seat of his maternal grandfather, Theodorick Bland, Sen. The years of his boyhood were passed at Matoax, near Petersburg.